

Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 October 2007



- The New York Times reports that a panel of experts found that an increase in the cultivation of crops used for the production of ethanol, especially corn, might affect water quality and cause water shortages. The panel recommended improved agricultural practices, water recycling and other steps to address the problems. (See item 2)
- The Associated Press reports that a freight train carrying toxic chemicals derailed in Painesville Township, Ohio, setting off a fire that resulted in the evacuation of thousands of people located nearby the tracks. No injuries were reported. Officials are investigating the cause of the accident. (See item 3)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams

Service Industries: <u>Banking and Finance</u>; <u>Transportation and Border Security</u>; <u>Postal</u> and Shipping; <u>Information Technology</u>; <u>Communications</u>; <u>Commercial Facilities</u>

Sustenance and Health: <u>Agriculture and Food</u>; <u>Water</u>; <u>Public Health and Healthcare</u>
Federal and State: Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and

Icons

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – [http://www.esisac.com]

1. October 11, Bloomberg – (Nationwide) Crude oil rises above \$83 after unexpected U.S. inventory drop. Crude oil rose above \$83 a barrel in New York for the first time this month after an Energy Department report showed an unexpected decline in U.S. inventories. Stockpiles fell 1.67 million barrels in the week ended October 5, the report showed. A 1.08 million-barrel gain was expected, according to a Bloomberg News survey. The International Energy Agency reported today that supplies of crude oil and petroleum products in the developed world fell last month. Supplies of distillate fuels, a category that includes heating oil and diesel, declined 563,000 barrels to 135.3 million last week, according to the report.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/markets/energy.html

2. October 11, The New York Times – (Nationwide) Panel sees problems in ethanol production. Greater cultivation of crops to produce ethanol could harm water quality and leave some regions of the country with water shortages, a panel of experts is reporting. Corn, the most widely grown fuel crop in the United States, might cause more damage per unit of energy than other plants, especially switchgrass and native grasses, the panel said. The panel, convened by the National Research Council, said improved agricultural practices, water recycling and other steps might reduce possible problems. However, it added that "fundamental knowledge gaps" made it difficult to predict what would happen as the nation's embrace of biofuel crops expanded. Meanwhile, it said, it would be "prudent" to encourage the use of ethanol sources other than corn. Production of ethanol from corn kernels is on the rise, the panel said, adding that President Bush has called for the annual production of 35 billion gallons of ethanol by 2017, an amount that would account for about 15 percent of liquid transportation fuels in the United States.

Source:

 $\frac{\text{http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/11/science/11water.html?ex=1349755200\&en=f2a8676da5c0be30\&ei=5088\&partner=rssnyt\&emc=rss}{\text{nttp://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/11/science/11water.html?ex=1349755200\&en=f2a8676da5c0be30\&ei=5088\&partner=rssnyt\&emc=rss}{\text{nttp://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/11/science/11water.html?ex=1349755200\&en=f2a8676da5c0be30\&ei=5088\&partner=rssnyt\&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt&emc=rssnyt$

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Chemical Industry

3. October 11, The Associated Press – (Ohio) Chemical cars derail in Ohio. About 30 cars in a freight train hauling some toxic chemicals derailed Wednesday, setting off a large, smoky fire and leading to the evacuation of potentially hundreds of people. No injuries were reported. The fire was under control, but authorities were letting it burn itself out because the train was carrying toxic chemicals, fire officials said. The biggest concern was a tank car of liquefied petroleum gas, officials said. Firefighters were keeping water on that car to keep it cool, said a Lake County administrator. About 30 cars in the 112-car freight train derailed, said a spokesman for the freight operator, Jacksonville, Florida-based CSX Corp. Eight cars carried potentially hazardous materials, but no toxic inhalants, he said. Most of the material was ethanol. The cause of the derailment was being investigated.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h3ZkYB1v5nhezZ4WdSgPCHnB14nQD8S6N7U00

4. October 10, The Ironton Tribune – (Kentucky) Possible chemical leak in Greenup County. A chemical smell was reported in Raceland, Kentucky on Wednesday. When 911 dispatch in Greenup County received the call, the caller reported that it smelled like chlorine, but it was never verified, the dispatcher said. Raceland, Flatwoods and Worthington fire departments responded to the call. A "shelter in place" warning was announced for a one-half mile radius of Pond Creek and Vine Street in Raceland. Also, the town of Worthington was on a "shelter in place" warning. The chemical smell came from a CSX train car, believed to be empty. Two HAZMAT teams were called to the scene.

Source: http://www.irontontribune.com/articles/2007/10/10/news/news280.txt

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

- 5. October 11, The Charlotte Observer (South Carolina) Duke Energy reports tritium leak at Catawba Nuclear Station. Radioactive tritium has leaked into groundwater from the Catawba Nuclear Station on Lake Wylie, Duke Energy told federal regulators Wednesday. One well at the Catawba plant had a tritium concentration twice as high as the federal government says is safe in drinking water. Duke says the contamination poses no threat to the public because it is confined within the plant's boundaries. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control will sample water from about two dozen residential wells near the plant, spokesman Thom Berry said. Tritium occurs naturally and as a byproduct of nuclear plants. It emits a weak form of radiation, but people exposed to it may face increased risks of cancer or pass on genetic abnormalities. At least six other nuclear plants, none in the Carolinas, have reported tritium leaks in recent years. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says the leaks posed no threats to public health but revised inspection procedures to ferret out potential leaks. Source: http://www.heraldonline.com/109/story/140669.html
- 6. October 10, The Associated Press (Nationwide) U.S. ill equipped to ID nuclear material. If terrorists use nuclear weapons to attack the U.S., Americans immediately would want to know who is responsible. However, the nation is ill equipped now to quickly track down the make and origin of nuclear materials. It could take months to analyze and identify nuclear material, officials said Wednesday too long in today's threat environment. Security officials say a nuclear attack by terrorists is the No. 1 threat facing the U.S., and one key to preventing such a strike is to define the nature and source of a nuclear device. In the past year, the government has paid greater attention to the importance of nuclear forensics, a subject not previously given high priority. Nuclear experts in the government testified before a House subcommittee about how the departments of Energy, Homeland Security, State and Justice, as well as national laboratories, are working on the issue. Reaching agreements with other countries to share sensitive information about their nuclear materials is a priority, said a counterterrorism official at the Energy Department. Congress is considering a bill that would ask the president for agreements with other countries to share information on the makings of their nuclear materials. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071010/ap on go co/nuclear forensics 2

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. October 11, The Associated Press – Rocket carrying U.S. satellite launched. A rocket carrying a satellite used for communication by the United States Air Force lifted off Wednesday night. The Atlas V is carrying a Wideband Global SATCOM satellite and is the first of at least five satellites scheduled to be placed in orbit by the end of 2008. The satellite system will replace the current Defense Satellite Communications System that has been used for military communications for the last two decades. This first satellite will cover the Pacific Zone, which includes Hawaii, Japan and Southeast Asia. Each spacecraft will cost \$350 million

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071011/ap on sc/rocket launch; ylt=ArXyx3J42WJrP59SWY

cWQOWs0NUE

8. October 11, Business Wire – (New York) General Dynamics upgrades the Pentagon's video infrastructure with Harmonic's Digital Video and Broadband Access Solutions.

Harmonic Inc. announced that General Dynamics has implemented Harmonic's market-leading IP-based digital video and HFC broadband access solutions to upgrade the cable video system operated at the Pentagon, the headquarters of the United States Department of Defense. The project included an upgrade of the entire video headend and expansion of the transport infrastructure to support more standard definition (SD) and high definition (HD) video channels as well as on-demand video applications.

Source:

http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/topix/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20_071011005395&newsLang=en&ndmConfigId=1000639&vnsId=41_

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. October 11, The Oregonian – (Oregon) 'Survey' phishing scam targets Bend bank. Thirteen customers of the Bend, Oregon-based Bank of the Cascades have fallen victim to a new 'phishing' scam over the last ten days. Customers received emails that offered to deposit \$100 in their accounts if they clicked on a link to complete a survey. Those who volunteered their account information and personal identification numbers to the fraudulent site lost a combined \$15,000, which the bank has replaced in full. After following ATM transactions, investigators suspect the originators of the scam are located in Chile, Iran and Finland, where they have also closed down several fraudulent websites. Bank's officials advise customers to never click on an embedded link in an email.

Source:

 $\frac{\text{http://www.oregonlive.com/business/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/business/1192062331101390.x}{\text{ml\&coll}=7}$

10. October 10, Consumer Affairs – (National) Utility bill refund email is a scam. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released a warning against scammers, who are sending spam emails with the subject lines "Urgent Notification." The email, which appears to be sent by DOE because of its domain name, refund@energy.gov, claims the recipients are due a refund from DOE for \$480.58 and they have to click on a link in the message to claim the money. By going to the listed website, the victims have their computers infected with a virus, which will steal sensitive information such as passwords and user names. DOE officials said the agency does not handle refunds via email.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2007/10/energy_scam.html

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. October 11, WTEN Albany – (New York) Emergency landing at Albany International Airport. A Boeing 757 made an emergency landing at Albany International Airport after

indicators lights alerted the pilots that the airplane's left engine had shut down completely. The United Airlines aircraft, which was carrying 189 passengers and crew, was flying from Hartford to Chicago. All passengers and personnel were transported safely to the airport's terminal. Airport mechanics are investing the cause of the engine's malfunction. Source: http://www.wten.com/Global/story.asp?S=7199612&nav=0Rdv

12. *October 11, USA Today* – (National) **Phoenix airport to test body-scan machines.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) today started testing a full body scanning machine at the Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Arizona. The new device uses radio waves, which bounce off travelers as they stand inside the booth. However, there is some controversy around the new machine, which is considered 'invasive' because it produces computer images that show people's undergarments. Nevertheless, the screeners in charge of the machine are not allowed to carry cellular phones in their observation rooms, where they review the computer images, which are instantly deleted. The machines show also only blurry images of the passengers' faces. The machine "avoids a pat-down, which a lot of people find distasteful," said the TSA spokeswoman.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-10-11-body-scan N.htm?csp=34

13. October 11, USA Today – (National) Waterways could be key to freeing up freeways. Federal transportation strategists started a study on methods to reduce congestion on the nation's highways. One solution promoted by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration is to create 'marine highways,' which "supporters say could remove hundreds of thousands of trucks from highways along the Eastern seaboard at a fraction of the cost of building new highways." Investing \$2 billion in coastal shipping and ports could take 700,000 trucks a year off Interstates 95 and 81 by connecting four pairs of ports on the East and Gulf coasts, says the president of the National Defense Transportation Association. By comparison, he says, spending \$8.5 billion to widen I-81 through Virginia would add a few hundred miles of lanes and keep 700,000 trucks on the road. The Maritime Administration and private companies are presently trying to educate state and local governments on the benefits generated by using waterways for cargo transport. There are, however, several inconveniences posed by this alternative: harbor maintenance taxes, federal taxes imposed on shippers, inadequate port facilities and a shortage of cranes and barges.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-10-truckside_N.htm

14. October 11, The Providence Journal – (Rhode Island) Airport testing runway-debris detection system. T.F. Green Airport in Rhode Island has become the first commercial airport to test a new technology to provide 24-hour detection of debris on runways on behalf of the Federal Aviation Administration. The system is significant because debris can be drawn into engines or damage landing gear and control mechanisms. Currently, the debris check is performed manually several times a day, but with the new Tarsier Foreign Object Debris technology -- developed by QinetiQ -- airport operators would be alerted when foreign objects are detected. "Foreign-object debris (FOD) has been identified as a major problem for the aerospace industry, with cost estimates ranging up to \$4 billion per year globally," said the director of the University of Illinois Center of Excellence in Airport Technology (CEAT), who is participating in the system's evaluation. The system will be tested in "a variety of weather and lighting conditions, including wind, rain, snow and darkness." Currently, the QinetiQ's

Tarsier technology is utilized at Vancouver International Airport in Canada and is being installed at the Dubai International Airport.

Source: http://www.projo.com/business/content/BZ_TFGREEN11_10-11-07_DJ7EK6E.2668c28.html

- 15. October 10, USA Today (National) States restrict truck traffic. The increasing numbers of big rigs and crowded highways has led many states to restrict where trucks can drive. In Florida, some interstates have banned the trucks from the far left lane. Georgia is considering truck-only toll lanes on parts of the interstates near Atlanta. Other states have received grants to study adding truck-only lanes. Congress and the Bush administration are weighing private industry proposals to move some truck cargo to ships along the Atlantic Coast, potentially freeing up lanes on interstates. The issue is largely one of congestion rather than safety. The American Trucking Association, which represents about 40,000 trucking companies, generally does not oppose free truck-only lanes, according to their senior vice president. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-10-trucks N.htm
- 16. October 10, ABC News (International) **High-octane bust: smugglers mix cocaine and diesel.** The U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced the interception of a fishing boat 300 miles off Ecuador that was carrying "an estimated 2,325 gallons of a brown, syrupy substance consistent with liquid cocaine." This is the latest in a series of failed attempts to smuggle narcotics via waterways. A similar incident took place in April, when CBP found a ship transporting drugs concealed as 3,850 gallons of a diesel mixture. Authorities arrested eight Colombian nationals in connection with Wednesday's incident. Source: http://www.abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/story?id=3714180
- 17. October 10, The Associated Press (National) U.S. judge delays some border fence construction. A U.S. District Court judge approved a 10-day delay for the construction of a 1.5 mile section of a U.S.-Mexico border fence in a wildlife conservation area on the Arizona-Mexico border due to the lack of a 'thorough' study on the fence's effects on the environment. The judge accused the government of attempting to submit a superficial study with the intent of starting construction "before anyone would wake up." Although the fence is almost finished in many parts of the Arizona-Mexico border, it was put on hold in Texas because of strong opposition due to the San Pedro conservation area, which is "a seasonal flyway for millions of migratory birds and hosts a large variety of plant and animal life." The spokesman for the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security said "we are disappointed in the judge's decision today that temporarily delays the building of border fence in this specific area. We are reviewing the decision and will examine all of our options, including appeal." The spokesman also stated that the secretary "has waived environmental restrictions before and would do so again if necessary."

Source: http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5204536.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *October 11, KUAM* – (Guam) **USPS comments on shipping changes for Guam.** Recently, the United States Postal Service announced they were changing their requirements for mailing

parcels in and out of Guam to make the process simpler for shippers by using a single form. The public affairs and communications specialist for the U.S. Postal Service stated that this change should not affect shipments to Guam by online shippers. He added that there should be no additional charges for shipping parcels in and out of Guam, and that no international shipping rates are assessed when parcels are shipped from the mainland to Hawaii en route to Guam.

Source: http://www.kuam.com/news/24866.aspx

19. October 10, Business Wire – (National) Pilot program to assist United States Postal Service combat insurance fraud. The Fraud and SIU unit of GlobalOptions Group, Inc. has entered into a formal agreement to develop a pilot program for the United States Postal Service to assist in combating insurance fraud. GlobalOptions Group, Inc. is a provider of domestic and international risk management services. They and the U.S. Postal Service will work together on the Workers Compensation Analyst (WCA) program, which is being developed to aggressively investigate Workers Compensation Fraud through research and/or surveillance support.

Source: http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/687786/

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. October 11, The Associated Press – (Wisconsin) Report: Wisconsin losing acres of farmland. Wisconsin is losing 30,000 acres of farmland per year, but the state's agricultural diversity has insulated it against farming downtrends, according to a study by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. The report found than Wisconsin had nearly 24 million agricultural acres in 1950. By 2005, that number had dropped to 15 million. Recommendations from last week's report to improve farming and country living include a call for a statewide grant program. The program would involve the purchase of 25-year easements on land — or so-called purchases of development rights — that would prevent development and establish agricultural enterprise areas with farming clusters. Development would be prohibited within these clusters for fixed periods of time.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5izrj8anPoPFJKWGVG9FIQu3Dh5bgD8S6U5JG0

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Water Sector

21. *October 11*, *Detroit Free Press* – (National) **State water has defenders.** Environmental groups on Wednesday responded to comments made by the governor of New Mexico. The governor, who is campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination, stated last week that, if elected, he would bring states together to discuss how water-rich northern-tier states could help with shortages in the southwest. Conservation groups in the Great Lakes region were alarmed by his statements, as Lake Superior is currently in a drought and all the upper Great Lakes are well below their longtime average levels.

Source: http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071011/NEWS05/710110436

22. October 11, The Record – (California) Flood-control bills OK'd. On Wednesday, the governor of California signed into law a series of flood-control bills that could shift development out of flood plains and double the strength of the levees protecting Central Valley cities. The main bills create a comprehensive flood-control plan, order the state Department of Water Resources to inventory the Central Valley levee system's weak spots, and map areas that will require 200-year flood protection, which local governments must then provide. A provision in the bill would require local governments to eventually change their general development plans to limit subdivisions in known flood zones. Local governments that choose to allow development in those areas will be liable for them should they flood later. To read the details of the flood control bills, AB156, AB162, AB70, SB17, SB5 and AB5, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Source:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071011/A NEWS/710110334

24. October 10, The Canadian Press – (North Dakota; Canada) Manitoba lawyer urges U.S. water review for Devils Lake outlet. North Dakota's Health Department should have studied the water quality consequences of changes it endorsed for the Devils Lake outlet's operating permit, a Canadian lawyer, representing Manitoba's provincial government and three groups that oppose the outlet, told the state's Supreme Court. The changes allow saltier Devils Lake water into the Sheyenne River and provide more operating time for the drainage channel. According to the lawyer, those changes required a review of their impact on the river. He argued that a review could not justify the changes to the outlet, given the minimal effect it has had in relieving Devils Lake flooding, Delmore said. A North Dakota Health Department lawyer said the saltier water allowed by the permit changes will not harm water quality, as sulfate levels in Devils Lake's west bay and the point where the outlet enters the Sheyenne River are similar. The Supreme Court will make its ruling later.

Source: http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5g FHWNTheGhO-jxtpBZja0WTJt3g

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. October 11, Reuters – (National) Johnson and Johnson recalls infant cold medicines.

Johnson & Johnson is recalling Concentrated Infants' Tylenol Drops Plus Cold, Concentrated Infants' Tylenol Drops Plus Cold & Cough, Pediacare Infant Drops Decongestant (PSE), Pediacare Infant Drops Decongestant & Cough (PSE), Pediacare Infant Dropper Decongestant (PE), Pediacare Infant Dropper Long-Acting Cough, and Pediacare Infant Dropper Decongestant & Cough (PE) from the U.S. market, the company said on Thursday. Data show that when misused, the medicines can lead to overdose, especially in infants under 2 years old. Safety experts for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have urged the agency to consider a

ban on these medicines for children under the age of 6 years. The issue is still under review at the FDA.

Source:

http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSWNAS604120071011?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews&rpc=22&sp=true

26. October 11, San Francisco Gate – (California) Nurses strike 15 hospitals, mostly in Bay Area. In the largest nursing strike in California in a decade, as many as 5,000 nurses walked off their jobs Wednesday morning at the start of what is expected to be a 48-hour walkout. Hospital officials said replacement workers were in place and services will not be interrupted. Union leaders said the action is centered on unresolved contract issues affecting staffing, health and retiree benefits in 15 Northern California hospitals affiliated with the Sutter Health network. The walkout is expected to last 48 hours.

Source: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-

bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/10/11/BUROSNQ58.DTL&type=business

27. October 10, Reuters – (National) Marvel halts Curious George shipments to check lead. Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. stopped shipments of its Chinese-made Curious George products and may recall the toys if emergency testing shows unsafe levels of lead in them, the company said on Wednesday. Marvel said it was taking the action after the Center for Environmental Health said it found a Curious George doll containing 10 times the legally-allowed lead level.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/consumerproducts-sp/idUSN1026932320071011?sp=true

Government Facilities Sector

28. October 10, The Associated Press – (Virginia) Va. Tech tests emergency alert system. After Virginia Tech ran a test of their emergency alert system on Wednesday hundreds of people reported that they had not received the sent out message. It was unclear if those who had not received the messages were signed up for the service, which sends text messages, voice mails, e-mails and online instant messages to those who signed up. After the test, a campus-wide e-mail survey was sent out and 711 people stated that they never received a message. The university spokesman said "it can be that they never signed up for it, or they signed up and they dropped out, or U.S. Cellular was having hiccups." He also pointed out that external issues may have delayed or prevented people from receiving the alerts. Virginia Tech and 3n (National Notification Network), a California provider of mass notification systems, will review the data from the test and make adjustments as necessary.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071010/ap on re us/virginia tech emergency notification; ylt =AtzspY17D NUaDX9QcVKLYdG2ocA

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Emergency Services Sector

29. October 11, EMS Responder – (National) Health organizations work together to improve disaster responses. With a goal of strengthening the nation's health system preparedness and response, a coalition of 18 health organizations led by APHA and the American Medical Association in June released 53 strategic recommendations for legislators, government officials and organizational leaders to more effectively prepare for and respond to catastrophic emergencies. The recommendations are included in a consensus report, "Improving Health System Preparedness for Terrorism and Mass CasualtyEvents." The recommendations serve as a national call to action from public health, medicine, dentistry, nursing, hospitals and emergency medical services. The recommendations seek to strengthen disaster response and preparedness through increased funding, greater integration, continued education and training and ensured legal protection for responders.

Source: http://www.emsresponder.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=15&id=6324

30. October 11, Deseret Morning News – (Utah) New intensive-care ambulance to transport Utah children. Gold Cross Ambulance, LifeFlight and Primary Children's Medical Center now have a specially equipped ambulance to transport critically ill or injured babies and children. The intensive-care ambulance, specially designed by Gold Cross and LifeFlight, focuses on enhanced safety during transport for both the patient and the rescue crew, according to the nurse manager of LifeFlight's children's services. The new amenities include a better-designed space for neonatal incubators, including heart and lung monitoring, ventilators, infusion pumps and other specialized equipment. Premature babies born in other hospitals who are being transported to Primary Children's now have all the latest lifesaving equipment on board. It also has some real benefits for rescue crew members, including padded corners, captains' chairs with seatbelts, rather than benches, a special gurney that is powered to reduce strain on crew members' backs and more. The patient-care area also has been bolstered to make it more crash-worthy.

Source: http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=6325

31. October 10, St. Paul Pioneer Press – (Minnesota) Ambulance service tests new automated CPR device. Medtronic Inc. is distributing a medical device in the United States that mechanically thumps the chests of heart attack patients as part of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the company said Monday. Called the Lucas Chest Compression System, the Swedish-made device has been used in European countries since 2004 and is being tested in Minnesota by Allina Medical Transportation. The Lucas system runs on high-pressure air from either a compressed air tank or an air wall outlet in a hospital. The device is indicated for treating adults, who have acute circulatory arrest - meaning they lack spontaneous breathing and pulse - as well as loss of consciousness. Mechanical compression allows medical personnel to provide other therapies, the company said. The machine also should provide quality chest compressions for a longer period of time than a human can. A 1995 study found that fatigue makes it difficult for even well-trained medical personnel to provide more than one minute's worth of effective chest compressions, said a Medtronic spokeswoman.

Source: http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Industry-Wire---New-Products/Minnesota-

Source: http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Industry-Wire---New-Products/Minnesota-Ambulance-Service-Tests-New-Automated-CPR-Device/11\$6316

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Information Technology

32. October 11, IDG News Service – (California) California state site can't shake porn problems. The Web site blamed for last week's Internet problems within the state of California has been taken offline after links to pornographic material reappeared on the site. The Transportation Authority of Marin's tam.ca.gov Web site was offline Wednesday, its front page replaced with a placeholder page saying the site is down for maintenance. The Web site was taken down after security experts reported that it was hosting pornographic material over the past weekend. "The site was shut down ... to step back and determine what was the best action to take to address the continued contamination," said the authority's executive director in an e-mail message. "The site is down until it is re-structured with additional security, can be sponsored by a more reliable ISP, and perhaps secured from this occurring." The agency switched Internet service providers in early September after first discovering that its servers had been hacked. And last week, it was at the heart of a crisis that threatened to pull the entire state of California off the Internet.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9042118&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

33. October 11, IDG News Service – (National) U.S. trade body launches hard-drive probe against five companies. The U.S. International Trade Commission has launched an investigation into five companies after allegations of patent infringement in hard disk drives. The probe will target both drive makers and companies that use hard disk drives in their products: Western Digital Corp., Seagate Technology Inc., Toshiba America Information Systems Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co. and Dell Inc., the agency said in a statement. The Washington-based body said the investigation has been launched in reaction to a complaint of violation of Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 and seeks a ban on importation into the U.S. of products that allegedly infringe on U.S. patents. The complaint was made a month earlier by Steven and Mary Reiber of Lincoln, Calif., and is centered on "dissipative ceramic bonding tips," which are related to electrical wire connections inside the drives. The ITC did not name the patents alleged to have been infringed, but according to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office records, the Reibers hold patents 6,935,548 and 6,651,864 covering dissipative ceramic bonding methods. With Wednesday's decision to open an investigation, the ITC has a 45-day time frame in which to set a target date for completing the investigation. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9042120&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/.

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Communications Sector

34. October 12, The Wall Street Journal – (International) 3Com says sensitive data won't flow to Huawei. 3Com Corp. tried to allay concerns over a proposed sale of the company to Bain Capital Partners LLC and Huawei Technologies Co., a telecommunications company with close ties to the Chinese government, saying the Chinese company won't have access to "sensitive" U.S. technology. 3Com, a Massachusetts networking-equipment and network-security-systems company, and private-equity firm Bain Capital said they notified the U.S. government that Huawei won't have any operational control and won't be able to make decisions for 3Com if the deal goes through. Bain, which agreed Sept. 28 to buy most of 3Com for \$2.2 billion, or \$5.30 a share, said last week that it would submit the proposed transaction to national-security review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. Companies generally submit deals to government review as a defense measure. The government can unwind deals that weren't reviewed if it later determines the deal is a threat to national security. The proposed acquisition of 3Com, which counts the U.S. Defense Department among its customers, was expected to generate government scrutiny because of concerns over Huawei's government ties. Bain would retain a majority stake in 3Com, while Huawei would hold a minority stake, according to a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Huawei, which is 3Com's largest customer, will appoint three of 11 board members if the acquisition goes through, according to the filing. 3Com said it relied solely on Bain Capital for information about arrangements with Huawei.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119212747978156237.html?mod=technology_main_whats_news

35. October 11, Reuters – (National) FCC weighs decision on Net access charges. U.S. regulators are expected to decide Thursday whether to grant a request by AT&T to lift some regulations that govern what it can charge rivals for access to its high-speed Internet lines. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is facing a deadline of midnight on Thursday to rule on a petition by AT&T to scale back the regulations. Analysts have said the commission could rule at the same time on a similar petition by Qwest Communications International, whose request was put on hold by the agency last month. The FCC eased the same regulations on Verizon Communications last year. Verizon's petition was not approved by the agency, but went into effect when one of the commissioners was recused and the remaining four deadlocked. All the requests have been strongly opposed by smaller rivals such as Sprint Nextel, Time Warner Telecommunications and XO Communications. These competitors argue that they have few alternatives to get access to the high-speed lines they need, and are being charged more and more by the dominant carriers.

Source: http://www.news.com/FCC-weighs-decision-on-Net-access-charges/2100-1034_3-6212892.html

36. October 10, The Associated Press – (National) Bush Pushes for telecom immunity in proposed eavesdropping bill. President Bush said Wednesday that he will not sign a new eavesdropping bill if it does not grant retroactive immunity to U.S. telecommunications companies that helped conduct electronic surveillance without court orders. A proposed bill unveiled by Democrats on Tuesday doesn't include such a provision. Mr. Bush, appearing on

the South Lawn as that measure was taken up in two House committees, said the measure is unacceptable for that and other reasons.

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119204586273454971.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

37. October 11, WJZ Baltimore – (Maryland) Hotel atrium collapses in Hunt Valley. The roof of the atrium at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Hunt Valley, Maryland collapsed around noon on Wednesday. Hotel managers and investigators are still trying to ascertain what caused it to fall. The hotel's general manager says there were no known problems on the roof and no warning signs. Structural engineers continue to investigate what needs to be done to make the building structurally sound and reopen the hotel.

Source: http://wjz.com/topstories/local_story_283142353.html

38. October 11, The New York Times – (New York) Reports of explosion cause scare at Yonkers mall. Businesses were evacuated in a large shopping mall in Yonkers, New York on Wednesday as the Westchester County bomb squad was called in after reports of a car explosion involving some kind of booby trap. Central Park Avenue became chaotic just as the afternoon rush was getting under way. After hours of investigation, the police determined that the explosion was the bursting of an air bag in a Jeep. The air bag deployed during the search of the vehicle, which belonged to two individuals who had just been arrested for cocaine possession.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/11/nyregion/11yonkers.html?_r=1&ref=nyregion&oref=slog in

39. October 09, Burlington County Times – (New Jersey) Police: powder found in office was baking soda. A law office in Willingboro, New Jersey was evacuated Tuesday when a mysterious white powder was found, but the substance was later identified as baking soda from a discharged fire extinguisher. The powder was discovered about 8:50 a.m. in the waiting room of the law office, police said. Because the nature and origin of the powder were not known, the building was evacuated as a precaution, and a Burlington County hazardous-materials team went to investigate. The building was declared safe about 10:30 a.m.

Source: http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/112-10092007-1420779.html

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

40. October 10, The Monitor – (Texas) Senator agrees to examine levee's use as border fence. On Wednesday, a U.S. senator from Texas toured the levee system around the Rio Grande in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, Texas and subsequently announced that the federal government should examine using those levees for both flood protection and border security. Current federal plans for the fence call for it to closely follow the levee, and there has been talk of constructing it on top of the levee. 70 miles of fencing is planned to be built in the area by the end of 2008, but there was also word that the federal government may declare portions of the 180-mile levee system insufficient to protect the area during extreme flooding. The communication director for the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee said no one on the committee staff has reviewed the levee proposal yet.

Source: http://www.themonitor.com/news/levee 5726 article.html/border federal.html

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